

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

General Session of the Commission, Amsterdam, 2–6 September 1991

Present: Prof Dr O. Kraus (President) in the Chair, Commissioners Bock, Cogger, Corliss, Dupuis, Heppell, Holthuis, Lehtinen, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Ride, Savage and Thompson. Dr Tubbs (Executive Secretary), Miss Allan, Mrs Gentry and Mr Smith from the Secretariat also present. The President welcomed Commissioners, particularly Dr Nielsen and Dr Nye attending their first meeting since election to the Commission. He regretted that many Commissioners had been unable to attend.

1. Apologies for absence had been received from Commissioners Bayer, Cocks, Hahn, Kabata, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Mroczkowski and Schuster.

2. The Minutes of the previous General Session of the Commission and of the Open Meeting of the Commission (University of Maryland, July 1990) as published in BZN 47: 246–253 were accepted (Prof Dupuis abstaining) and signed.

3. *Report to IUBS, 1988–1991*

Commissioners accepted the Executive Secretary's report to IUBS for the years 1988–1991 as submitted, subject to the addition of Dr Nye's name as a Commissioner elected in 1989.

4. *Election of Commissioners*

(i) *Procedure for Elections.* Five vacancies in Commission membership had been announced, arising from the completion of tenure of Commissioners Cogger, Kraus, Mroczkowski and Ride and the resignation of Dr G.C. Gruchy. Twenty-eight nominations had been received including the four retiring members who had been ruled by the Council as eligible for re-election. In accordance with Article 4d of the Constitution the Commission selected ten of the nominees to present to the IUBS Section of Zoological Nomenclature. Five of the ten nominees were recommended by the Commission for election (in accordance with Bylaw 3 (BZN 46: 7–8)) to secure the best balance of nationality and zoological field in Commission membership, as laid down in Article 2 of the Constitution. Commissioners agreed that in future it would be helpful if nominees provided brief statements on their nomenclatural experience. Under Article 3c of the Statutes of the Section of Zoological Nomenclature (BZN 42: 321–323), it was agreed to admit to the Section at the XXIV General Assembly of IUBS all zoologists registered for the IUBS Symposium on Biodiversity or for associated workshops and all zoologists at the General Assembly who were not already members of the Section under Statutes 3a and 3b. As such they were, with the exception of any person whose name appeared on the ballot paper, eligible to vote in the election.

(ii) *Election by the Section of Zoological Nomenclature.* Voting by secret ballot was undertaken by the Section of Zoological Nomenclature. In accordance with Bylaw 3d, Prof Corliss (Councillor) conducted the election. The ballot was open from the afternoon of 3 September to the afternoon of 5 September. The following five zoologists were elected to the Commission:

Dr P. Bouchet	France	Mollusca
Dr H.G. Cogger	Australia	Herpetology
Prof Dr O. Kraus	Germany	Arachnology
Dr W.D.L. Ride	Australia	Mammalia
Dr P. Štys	Czechoslovakia	Heteroptera

5. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*

Dr Tubbs reported that over the last few years there had been little change in the number of subscribers for the *Bulletin*. As an experiment, a greatly reduced subscription had been introduced for individuals wishing to receive offprints of all Applications, Comments and Opinions in particular fields (Crustacea and Mollusca), but there had not been many takers.

6. *Official Lists and Indexes of Names and Works in Zoology*

In the four years since publication about 520 copies of the *Official Lists and Indexes* had been sold. It had been updated in March 1991 with a supplement giving all the names placed on the Lists and Indexes in the five years since compilation of the volume. It had been suggested at the Commission's meeting in Maryland that the *Official Lists and Indexes* should be made available on disk. This was technically feasible, but would be expensive in terms of both money and effort. The views of a number of systematists and users of taxonomy had been sought and their general reaction was that availability on disk would be of little value; Commissioners concurred with this view.

Prof Bock questioned the value of placing on the Official Lists names other than those that had been conserved by the Commission, and this led to a discussion on the status of names placed on the Official Lists and Indexes. A committee was set up (The President, Dr Bock and the Executive Secretary) to make recommendations to the Editorial Committee on the Code.

7. *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (Third Edition)*

The Third Edition of the Code had been published in 1985 and more than 6000 copies had been sold. It was now being sold by the Trust and the American Association for Zoological Nomenclature at the rate of about 170 copies a year and was producing a useful income. A reprint would not be necessary for some years, even if it was not replaced by a Fourth Edition.

8. *Financial Position*

Dr Tubbs reported that a number of economies had been made to reduce the anticipated deficit in the funding of the Commission's activities. These included staff reductions by taking in-house the financial book-keeping and the liaison with the *Bulletin* printers, both previously carried out by paid part-time staff, and also savings in costs by sending *Bulletin* copy to the printers on disk rather than in typescript. Despite such savings the anticipated deficit for 1991 was over £5,000. Shortfalls in funding were a severe constraint on the effectiveness of the Commission and would limit the extent to which it could move into new fields such as the Lists of Names unless support could be substantially increased. He reported that the IUBS Executive Committee had agreed that IUBS could receive funds earmarked for the Trust from countries which were unable to contribute research council or other government support directly to an organisation based abroad.

Dr Tubbs noted that grants and donations amounted to about £24,800 in 1990, but that this support and sales of publications (£28,700) together amounted to only 80% of expenditure. The President expressed gratitude to those who supported the Commission's work, but stressed the urgency of obtaining funds from more countries, and from organizations that made use of the Commission's services.

9. European Association for Zoological Nomenclature

Dr Tubbs reported that formal steps had now been completed for the foundation of a European Association for Zoological Nomenclature similar to the American Association. Such a transnational association would serve both to heighten the awareness of nomenclature and to increase financial support. The Association would be legally registered in Spain.

Commissioners endorsed the intention of Dr Macpherson and Dr M.A. Alonso-Zarazaga (Madrid) to set up a provisional Executive Committee with representatives from a number of European countries. It would be necessary to develop the most economic method of collecting and transmitting subscriptions in a number of different currencies with a minimum of bank charges. Suggestions included the holding of 'Treasurer's Accounts' for receipt of foreign currency, and the appointment of correspondents in each country who would consolidate subscriptions within that country and transmit funds direct to the Trust's account in London.

10. Procedure for the Election of the Officers and Councillors

Dr Cogger had been elected Vice-President in January 1990 for the remainder of the previous Vice-President's term of office which was due to end on 1 December 1991. It was agreed that under Bylaw 12b Drs Bock and Holthuis would join with the Council to nominate two candidates for the Vice-Presidency.

Profs Corliss and Savage would retire from the Council in March 1993. The Commission set a date of 4 January 1993 for the election of two Councillors to fill the vacancies.

At a meeting on 6 September the Council, in accordance with the Bylaws, re-appointed the Secretary-General (Dr Nye) and the Executive Secretary (Dr Tubbs) to serve until the close of the next IUBS General Assembly.

11. Relationship between the Commission and the International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature

The attention of Commissioners was drawn to a statement by the Trust, agreed at its annual meeting in June 1991, setting out how it saw its relationship with the Commission. The statement noted that the role of the Trust was to act as an enabling body working on behalf of the Commission to publish the works of the Commission, to raise funds and to appoint staff who would act as servants of the Commission.

It was explained that the Commission, not being a corporate body registered in any country, could not itself hold funds or pay bills and that it was necessary to have a separate body in the country where the Commission's Secretariat operated. The President, who had been a member of the Trust for a number of years, assured Commissioners that the relationship between the two bodies worked well and harmoniously. It was noted that the 24 members of the Trust included four Commissioners and that nine members were from outside the U.K.

12. *Commission Procedures*

Dr Tubbs introduced a paper he had written explaining the role of the Commission, the procedures whereby it carried out its tasks, and particularly how applications submitted for action by the Commission were dealt with. It was intended to publish this paper, with appropriate modifications, in the *Bulletin* and perhaps elsewhere. It was important that this paper emphasized the Commission's stabilizing influence on nomenclature. Commissioners were invited to propose additional points to be incorporated.

A table was presented showing the present disposition of applications received in the last 15 years. Of the 478 applications received between 1975 and 1988 and not later withdrawn or closed, 452 had been published and Opinions had been published for 423 of these. A small number of applications received before 1975 had been neither published nor closed. Dr Tubbs explained that there was a variety of reasons why in a small minority of cases publication had not been achieved or Opinions given, but that progress was being made with some of the uncompleted cases. In some cases the authors failed to provide additional information requested, while the ramifications of other applications were so wide-ranging that large areas of nomenclature could be destabilized. Such factors and limited Secretariat resources had caused difficulties since the Commission's earliest days.

In the course of discussion a number of points were emphasized and suggestions made for improving procedures. The President stressed the need for more detailed instructions to authors submitting applications, particularly a proposal that they should discuss cases with other zoologists or with nomenclature committees before submitting applications to the Commission. He also suggested that applications not submitted in the *Bulletin* format should be returned for resubmission. Dr Bock suggested that members of the Commission and specialist nomenclature committees could assist in checking applications, particularly references. It was agreed that Commissioners should be supplied with a list of cases for which no Opinion had been prepared, to see if assistance could be given.

13. *Bylaws of the Commission*

The Bylaws of the Commission had been adopted in 1976 at the Bangalore meeting of the Commission and modified at the Budapest (1985) and Canberra (1988) meetings. It was agreed that a revision of the Bylaws was needed and a committee consisting of Mr Heppell, Drs Nye and Thompson and the Executive Secretary was set up to undertake this and report to the Commission. The Committee would consider a proposed Bylaw that had been tabled; this provided for the institution of new categories of non-voting Special Commissioners and Emeritus Commissioners. It was important that the Bylaws should be made widely known and this could best be achieved by publication of them in the *Bulletin*, with a reference to this in the next edition of the Code.

14. *Specialist Nomenclature Committees*

A number of specialist nomenclature committees now existed and were available to assist the Commission by advising on applications submitted to the Commission, particularly the impact of such applications on taxonomy. Dr Bock had prepared a paper for distribution to Commissioners setting out draft terms of reference for nomenclature committees based on his experience of the Standing Committee on

Ornithological Nomenclature (SCON) of the International Ornithological Congress. He intended to publish a note in *Systematic Biology* on specialist nomenclature committees. Comments by the SCON and by the Nomenclature Committee of The Crustacean Society had been published in recent parts of the *Bulletin*.

Commissioners felt that specialist nomenclature committees could play a more significant role than at present, but recognized that in many fields there were as yet no means for establishing effective and representative committees.

15. *Lists of Names*

The Lists Committee (Chairman: Dr Ride, with Drs Cogger, Thompson and Tubbs, and Dr Holthuis also present) had met at Leiden on 30 and 31 August 1991. Dr Tubbs reported that he had had several meetings with Biosis U.K. In collaboration with the Zoological Society of London, Biosis had made good progress in the preparation of a draft list of generic names published between 1758 and 1990, based on Neave's *Nomenclator Zoologicus* and *Zoological Record*. In collaboration with the Commission's Secretariat sample lists had been prepared and sent to a number of specialist workers for their help and advice. If it were decided to proceed the contributions of other zoologists were important and would be sought. The Committee agreed that a List of Generic Names would be a most valuable tool for zoologists and others. It could be made available on CD-ROM and, divided into taxonomic sections, in hard copy.

The Committee considered whether the Commission should adopt enabling provisions in the next edition of the Code so that it could, at the request of zoologists in particular taxonomic fields, receive and accept 'Lists of potentially valid names' in those fields, to the exclusion of names not on such Lists. Potentially valid names are those which are not unavailable, objectively invalid or suppressed. After acceptance of such a List, following comments by the zoological community, names applying to taxa in the fields and ranks covered which had been published before the effective date of the List would be excluded from availability unless they were on the List. It was emphasized that the acceptance of such Lists should be on the initiative of zoologists rather than of the Commission, and that the fullest consultations were essential. It was recognised that in some fields such Lists would never exist. The Committee considered that such Lists would be very valuable, and it recommended that the Commission direct the Editorial Committee to draft amendments to the Code to enable their adoption.

The Commission accepted the report and recommendations of the Lists Committee.

16. *Names of Higher Taxa*

Mr Heppell tabled a report with a list of higher taxa (those above the family-group) excluding protista and fossil taxa. This was based on *Synopsis and Classification of Living Organisms* (McGraw-Hill, 1982). The list had been prepared in conjunction with Prof Savage in response to requests to the Commission to prepare lists of suprafamilial names. Mr Heppell stressed that, since such names were outside the Commission's remit, it was important that any such list should be regarded as being of Recommended Names, not having the authority of any Commission ruling. Commissioners recognized that the completion of such lists would be very time-consuming and that it was really the role of *Zoological Record*. It was decided not to proceed with formal lists but

instead to offer help to *Zoological Record* and to advise specialists on request or when a significant problem was perceived (Mr Heppell and Dr Nielsen to co-ordinate).

17. *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (Fourth Edition)*

Dr Ride presented a report of the Editorial Committee for the Fourth Edition of the Code (Chairman: Dr Ride, with the President, Dr Cogger, Prof Dupuis, Drs Thompson and Tubbs). The Committee (with apologies for absence from the President and Prof Dupuis, and with Dr Holthuis and Mr R.V. Melville present) had met at Leiden on 30 and 31 August 1991. The Committee had considered proposals to amend the Third Edition of the Code which had been discussed at meetings at Canberra in 1988 and at the University of Maryland in 1990 or which had been raised in correspondence with the Commission and between Commissioners since the Third Edition had been published in February 1985. All proposals to amend the Code contained in the files of the Secretariat, including issues brought up in the handling of applications published in the *Bulletin*, had been reviewed by the Committee. Broad issues discussed were the general form of the Code, criteria for Availability and Publication, and the language of the Code. Specific issues included the types of species-group taxa, the description of family-group taxa as a condition of availability of their names, the status of original and subsequent spellings, the agreement in gender of names in combination, the orthography of patronymic specific names, spellings selected by the first reviser, names based upon misidentified types, and the simplification of type terminology including a review of the term 'hapantotype'. A number of changes to individual Articles of the Code had been given preliminary consideration, including the bringing together of different components of the Code relating to the conservation of junior synonyms.

At Dr Ride's request, the Commission considered each item in the Editorial Committee's report and authorised the Committee to proceed along agreed lines in preparing a draft of the Fourth Edition. It was hoped that a first draft could be considered by the Editorial Committee in early 1992. A discussion draft would be made available for wide distribution in mid-1992 and would be announced in the *Bulletin* and elsewhere. Under Article 16 of the Constitution comments made within 12 months would be fully considered by the Editorial Committee, which would report to the Commission. The Commission would need to meet for intensive consideration of the revised draft, perhaps holding a colloquium to ensure a wide input of views. The XXV General Assembly of IUBS at its meeting in Paris in September 1994 could be asked to adopt formally the Fourth Edition for publication in 1995.

Dr Thompson circulated details of a questionnaire he had circulated at the ICSEB meeting at Maryland in July 1990 soliciting views on a number of questions on biological nomenclature in the 21st century. This was accepted as an interesting response and a useful input to the Editorial Committee.

18. *Proposed Suppression for Nomenclatural Purposes of three Herpetological Works*

An application from the President of the Australian Society of Herpetologists for the suppression for nomenclatural purposes of three herpetological works had been published in the *Bulletin* in June 1987; a number of comments had been received and published. The Commission discussed a number of options for responding to the application and agreed on a course of action (see BZN 48: 337–338).

19. *Forthcoming Centenary of the Commission*

The President reminded Commissioners that the centenary of the Commission's establishment would occur in 1995. Mr R.V. Melville, former member and Secretary of the Commission, was preparing a history of the Commission for publication in 1995. It was also intended that the Fourth Edition of the Code would be published that year. Commissioners agreed that the centenary would provide an excellent opportunity to highlight the importance of nomenclature and the contribution to nomenclatural stability made by the Commission. It was suggested that a Symposium might be held on the History and Future Development of Nomenclature.

20. *Conclusion*

In closing the meeting, the President thanked all present for the efforts they had made in attending the meeting which had made significant progress. He thanked particularly Dr Ride for assuming the Chairmanship of the Editorial Committee for the Fourth Edition of the Code and members of that committee for their important contribution.